

(c) REMARKS

The claims are 1, 4-6 and 9-12 with claim 1 the sole independent claim. The subject matter of allowable claim 8 has been added to independent claim 1 and claim 8 has been cancelled. Reconsideration of the claims is expressly requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 8, 11 and 12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, sole independent claim 1 has been made allowable by the incorporation of claim 8 and, therefore, claims 4-6 and 9-12 are likewise in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 4-6, 9 and 10 were previously rejected on art grounds. That rejection has been rendered moot by the present amendment. This action was taken without prejudice or disclaimer and without conceding the propriety of the rejection, in order to expedite issuance.

Expedient passage of the case to issue is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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